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DDI # 1911-77/1

11 MAY 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: Sayre Stevens
Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT: NID

1. Action Requested: None; this is in response to your note of May 5, 1977. It does request a meeting in which the future of the NID can be discussed.

2. Background: We are ourselves quite anxious to review our commitment to producing the National Intelligence Daily. Most of our concerns relate to the particular format of the NID and its suitability for the particular readers it reaches. We believe for a number of reasons, however, that the continued publication of some sort of daily current intelligence wrap-up for a broader audience than that of the PDB is in order.

3. The NID, as you have noted, receives a limited distribution at the Cabinet level, going only to the Vice-President, the Secretaries of State, Defense, Treasury and Commerce and to Dr. Brzezinski and Dr. Schlesinger. Until your recent request to provide the NID on a trial basis to Secretary Andrus, we had not considered distributing it to cabinet members not involved in foreign affairs.

4. The NID does go, however, to some 90 senior government officials involved in foreign policy just below the Cabinet level. Included are officials in State down to the level of Assistant Secretary, senior officials in Defense and the military services, all members of the NSC Staff, the heads of other intelligence agencies and others such as the Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board and the Director of ACDA. We believe from various evidence--word-of-mouth

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and at least one survey in recent years--that it is a widely appreciated service, read exhaustively by some, perhaps periodically or only skimmed by others--but useful to most as a reliable daily checklist of important foreign developments.

5. In addition, the NID, although prepared in CIA, is by decision of NFIB the intelligence community's only coordinated daily publication. Each article in the NID, unless otherwise indicated, represents the views of the CIA author and his counterparts in DIA, INR and NSA and where appropriate Treasury and ERDA. Coordination not only leads to a single published Community view, but the coordination process itself encourages regular consultation among analysts in the different agencies.

6. The NID and its predecessors have been an important product of CIA for many years, since the 1950s when a Central Intelligence Bulletin was established to replace the proliferating daily departmental publications. The NID, with its pool of CIA analysts, is also in a position to provide in one place the coverage of political, economic, military, geographic, and scientific developments that is not possible in the limited departmental publications of other agencies. The NID today is the community's only all-source daily intelligence digest with world-wide and all-subject coverage. The other intelligence agencies provide information in different packages but do not offer a comprehensive daily publication.

7. We would like an opportunity to discuss the daily publication question with you. In addition to the questions you have raised, we have a commitment to review the newspaper format and are in the process of developing alternative designs for a daily publication. We would like to get your views before we proceed much further in these efforts.

Sayre Stevens

CRG/DDI (11 May 1977)

Distribution:

Original - Addressee

1 - DDCI

1 - ER

2 - CRG/DDI

2 - DDI

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Suspense date: May 11

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5 MAY 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
FROM: Director of Central Intelligence
SUBJECT: NID

1. We tried the NID on Secretary of the Interior for a week. His vote at the end was that he didn't feel it was necessary for him to read it regularly. I haven't had an opportunity yet to ask him why.

2. If our distribution to the rest of the Cabinet is limited to State, Defense, Treasury, and Commerce, we may not have much of an external audience since State and Defense get most of the information by the PDB and other means.

3. The extremely large circulation within CIA may make it a worthwhile project but unless there is more external distribution of which I am unaware, I think we ought to review whether it is worth the effort and expense for our own people.

STANSFIELD TURNER
Admiral, U.S. Navy

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OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR

24 May 1977

NOTE FOR: DDCI

SUBJECT: NID

Hank:

Sayre has a meeting with the DCI tomorrow at 11:00 and the DCI is also meeting with the PDB staff at 10:00. At one of these sessions, I am informed, the subject of the NID and its future will probably come up.

Attached is Sayre's response to a T-gram on the NID which went forward during your absence. I am told that Sayre and Paul Walsh would both like to get rid of the NID and substitute something else. CRG is therefore trying to develop alternative designs for a daily publication. I see no harm in doing a little creative thinking on the subject; it also makes some sense to do an evaluation of the NID since it has been in business now for about three years.

I think, however, that any final decision ought to be deferred until PRM-11 and possible reorganizations have run their course.

[Redacted]